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Review
7/27

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Frank C. Carlucci
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Frank,

This report is in response to the President's instruction in NSDD 266 to review the established procedures for producing national foreign intelligence estimates. These procedures were reviewed to determine if we were achieving our goal of maintaining the integrity and objectivity of the process and the products.

We believe the national intelligence estimates process does achieve objectivity in the many interagency products issued by the Intelligence Community. We find that there is integrity and independence on the part of the people and the process. Nonetheless, we have taken steps to reinforce the safeguards already built into the system. These include

- reemphasized with the National Intelligence Officers their responsibilities to assist me in maintaining the integrity of the process
- held special meetings with NFIB Principals and their representatives reviewing and reaffirming the requirements of objectivity, integrity, and quality of the estimates
- initiated a revision of the Intelligence Community's guidelines for interagency production to bring currency and more clarity to the guidelines for process
- made changes in the DCI role to assure myself that the independence of the intelligence process is maintained at several key points and to foster full discussion of national estimates by the members of the National Foreign Intelligence Board.

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

Mr. Richard J. Kerr
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency

Dear Dick,

I enclose a copy of the report on the integrity and objectivity of the national estimative process that has been submitted to the NSC pursuant to the President's instruction in NSDD 266. That report benefited greatly from our dialogue on the subject and your thoughtful inputs to the drafts, which were greatly appreciated. The resulting product truly reflects, I feel, a *balance* Community perspective thanks to your efforts and those of the other NFIB Principals.

The associated revision of production guidelines is continuing, drawing on our dialogue and inputs received from across the Community. A draft should be available for review shortly. Together, these efforts should strengthen an already sound estimative process. The cooperation that has gone into this review exemplifies the close Community relationship that we all desire and support. Again, thank you for your constructive contributions; I look forward to our continued and close interaction in the future.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Webster

Attachment:
As stated

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C/NIC: 

Your package reached our Registry at 3:00 p.m.--they will log and carry to ER right away.

I called Jimmy Hill's secy again. She said Secret is okay, but should go to Aldridge in DDS&T channel (see yellow note I stuck on the original letter).

- Barb

P.S. Hill's secy Beth said she will alert Marie that such a letter may be coming. I have explained this also to Exec Registry.

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

The Honorable Edward C. Aldridge, Jr.
Secretary of the Air Force
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Pete,

I enclose a copy of the report on the integrity and objectivity of the national estimative process that has been submitted to the NSC pursuant to the President's instruction in NSDD 266. That report benefited greatly from our dialogue on the subject and your thoughtful inputs to the drafts, which were greatly appreciated. The resulting product truly reflects, I feel, a Community perspective thanks to your efforts and those of the other NFIB Principals.

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Sincerely yours,

William H. Webster

Attachment:
As stated

O/DCI:

Jimmy Hill's office in the Pentagon advised against putting this letter to Secy of Air Force in regular channels. Instead, it should be taken to DDS&T secretary, Marie, 6E60--that office has special courier to Aldridge as NFIB Principal.

Thank you,

Barbara
O/C/NIC

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